

2015 Congressional Tri-Caucus Health Equity and Accountability Act Summit



CONGRESSWOMAN ROBIN L. KELLY (D-IL)

CHAIRWOMAN OF THE CONGRESSIONAL
BLACK CAUCUS HEALTH BRAINTRUST



“Dr. King, who had been beaten and bloodied, hosed and bitten by dog and human alike for the cause of racial justice found injustice in healthcare to be the most shocking and inhumane form of inequality. I couldn’t agree more.”

Dear Friend,

On behalf of the Congressional Tri-Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust, welcome to the 2015 Congressional Tri-Caucus Health Equity and Accountability Act Summit.

Since 2003, the Congressional Tri-Caucus – comprised of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) has introduced the Health Equity and Accountability Act (HEAA) as a strategic plan to eliminate health disparities and improve health conditions in communities of color across the country. The HEAA bill has been relied on nationally as a central strategy to spotlight health inequity, and as a blueprint to reduce ethnic and racial disparities and improve national health outcomes.

In January of this year, I began championing America’s “March Toward Health Equity.” I did so because 2015 is a banner year coinciding with the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery demonstrations for equality, and the 30th Anniversary of the release of The Heckler Report – which, among other advancements, led to creation of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Minority Health. In remembering Selma, I’m reminded that, before his death, Dr. King said “Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in healthcare is the most shocking and inhumane.” Dr. King, who had been beaten and bloodied, hosed and bitten by dog and human alike for the cause of racial justice found injustice in healthcare to be the most shocking and inhumane form of inequality. I couldn’t agree more. We must put an end to inequality in health.

I look forward to a thoughtful and fruitful Health Equity Summit, and to continuing this critical conversation with you. Let’s get to work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin L. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robin" being the most prominent.

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, November 12th

Health Equity Town Hall, 5:30pm-7:30pm

James E. Clyburn Research Center, Medical University of South Carolina

Welcome Remarks:

- Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn (SC-6)
- Mayor Joseph Riley, Jr. Charleston, SC
- Dr. Mark Sothmann, Medical University of South Carolina

Opening Remarks & Town Hall Discussion:

Moderator: Anton Gunn, Medical University of South Carolina

- CBC Health Braintrust Chair, Congresswoman Robin Kelly
- CAPAC Health Co-Chair, Congresswoman Barbara Lee
- Assistant Democratic Leader James E. Clyburn (SC-6)
- Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee

Friday, November 13th

Day of Discussion

James E. Clyburn Research Center, Medical University of South Carolina

- **8:00-8:30AM**
Breakfast & Registration
- **8:30-8:45AM**
Plenary Speaker, AJ Jones, Head of Worldwide Government Affairs, Gilead Life Sciences
- **9:00 -10:20AM**
Panel I: Advancing the March Toward Health Equity – HEAA Legislation

Participants

- **Moderator, Donald Cravins, Jr.** National Urban League's Senior Vice President for Policy and Executive Director of National Urban League Washington Bureau
- Juanita Dean Bates, Urban League of Columbia
- Victoria Browman, Urban League of Columbia "I am Woman" Program Participant
- Brian Files, CVS Health
- Dr. Judith Glassgold, American Psychological Association
- Sharon Ricks, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Friday, November 13th (cont'd)

- **10:30 -11:50AM**

Panel II: *A Winning Offense: Battling Diseases*

Participants:

- **Moderator, Hon. Barbara Lee** (CAPAC)
- Amina Abbas, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Sister Gloria Crowell, Allen Temple Health and Social Services
- Mary Hulihan, Centers for Disease Control
- Aranthan Jones II, Gilead Life Sciences
- Emily McCloskey, National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
- Dr. Krupa Sivamurthy, Pfizer

- **12:00- 1:15PM: Lunch**

- **1:30-2:50PM**

Panel III: *The Color of Medicine: Perspectives on Health, Healthcare and the Diversity Pipeline*

Participants:

- **Moderator, Hon. Robin L. Kelly** (CBC)
- Dr. Willette Burnham, Medical University of South Carolina
- Dr. Patrick Canavan, Paladin Health Care Capital
- Deanna Darlington, AMGEN
- Dr. Gary Puckrein, National Minority Quality Forum
- Dr. Cheryl Whitaker, NextLevel Health Partners LLC

- **3:00 – 4:20PM**

Panel IV: *Food for Thought: Closing the Nutrition Gap*

Participants:

- Dr. Janice Dixon Key, American Academy of Pediatrics
- Denise Holland, Harvest Hope Food Bank
- Steven Lopez, National Council of La Raza
- Dana Mitchel, Lowcountry Food Bank
- Dr. LaTasha Seliby, Georgetown University Hospital

PLENARY SPEAKER

ARANTHAN JONES II
GILEAD SCIENCES



Aranthan "AJ" Jones II is Head of Worldwide Government Affairs for Gilead Sciences. In this capacity, he leads a global team to develop, advance and engage public policies and regulations to expand marketplace access and pharmaceutical innovation. Working collaboratively with industry stakeholders, healthcare professionals, association partners, and government leaders AJ establishes and maintains relationships with government leaders to address policies connected to Gilead's business operations and access programs. AJ oversees all of Gilead's global, federal and state government affairs offices and operates out of company's Washington, DC and Forest City, CA offices.

Prior to joining Gilead, AJ was Health Practice Chairman and Principal at the Podesta Group. He served as lead strategist and public policy consultant for Fortune 500 companies, national non-profit organizations and global foundations at the firm. He was the company's first African American health practice chairman and the only African American health chairman of a top-ranked lobbying firm. Additionally, he served on the firm's management committee and was co-chairman of its investment committee.

Before joining the Podesta Group, AJ was the Policy Director for the US House of Representatives (USHR) Majority Whip office, headed by Congressman James E. Clyburn of the 6th district of South Carolina. AJ was one of four policy directors within the leadership of the USHR, the first African American policy director in the leadership of the USHR, and the highest ranking African American healthcare advisor in the USHR. During his congressional tenure, AJ was directly responsible for the crafting and passage of over 214 pieces legislation of which 142 became law. He also served as policy director for the Congressional Katrina and Rita Leadership Working Group which was charged with coordinating and directing all congressional action on Gulf Coast recovery matters.

AJ was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and spent his formative years living in North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia and Maryland. He received his undergraduate training from Iowa State University in the Sociology and Anthropology, and minored in African American studies. Additionally, he received his graduate training in International Health Policy (with concentrations in economic development and finance) from George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services.

Panel I: Advancing the March Toward Health Equity – HEAA Legislation



Don Cravins Jr. Moderator

Don Cravins, Jr. is the National Urban League’s Senior Vice President for Policy and Executive Director of The League’s Washington Bureau, where he develops the policy, research and advocacy agenda. Cravins is also an adjunct professor at The George Washington University, where he teaches Prosecution and Litigation in Intellectual Property. Additionally, Cravins serves as a Captain with the 352nd Judge Advocate Detachment of the Washington DC Army National Guard Judge Advocate General Corps.. A native of Southwest Louisiana, Cravins has a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Louisiana State University and . attended the Southern University Law Center where he graduated with honors.



**Victoria Browman
Columbia Urban League**

Victoria Browman has served as a Community Health Worker for the Columbia Urban League’s I Am Woman community health initiative since graduating from the program herself in 2011. I AM Woman is a six-week program designed by experts from the Morehouse School of Medicine to educate and empower African-American women ages 18 and older with the tools and resources to reach their maximum potential and become life-time managers of their health and wellness. Browman is currently one of six women who live within the community designated as lead community health workers or navigators who help their neighbors learn how to navigate the health system to reach their individual health goals. Browman lives in Columbia, South Carolina and is the mother of four children and three grandchildren.



**Juanita Dean-Bates
Columbia Urban League**

Juanita Dean- Bates is Program Manager for the Columbia Urban League, providing leadership and oversight to ensure programmatic outcomes are met for The League. Juanita is tasked with implementing the I AM WOMAN and Project Ready programs providing culturally, evidence-based practice modules for women of color to take control of their lives through education, nutrition, and exercise. Dean-Bates earned her bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and is currently pursuing dual master degrees in Social Work and Public Health from the University of South Carolina. She has one daughter, who is pursuing an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Winthrop University.



Brian Files
CVS

Brian Files is Director of Public Policy at CVS Health. He connects public policy with the corporate enterprise by identifying, tracking and influencing issues that represent potential threats to and opportunities for chain pharmacies, pharmacy benefit managers, clinics, and retail operations.

Brian has over 22 years of experience in healthcare, including business development, managed markets, lobbying, U.S. and international government affairs and public policy. Prior to his time at CVS Health, Brian served in key leadership roles at Johnson & Johnson, Sepracor, INVO Bioscience, and LogistiCare. He holds a B.A. in History from Cornell University and a M.B.A. in Corporate Strategy and Marketing from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.



Judith Glassgold, Psy D
American Psychological Association

Judith M. Glassgold, PsyD is Associate Executive Director and Director of Government Relations for Public Interest Directorate of the American Psychological Association (APA). A clinical psychologist with over 20 years' experience in community-based mental health, Glassgold works on mental health disparities and healthcare delivery policies. Prior to APA, she worked on health policy in the Congressional Research Service, a legislative branch agency providing nonpartisan policy analysis exclusively to Congress. Additionally, Dr. Glassgold served as a Senior Policy Advisor on Domestic Social Policy to Representative Sander Levin, Chair and then Ranking Member of the Ways and Means Committee and worked on the implementation of the Affordable Care Act and unemployment policies. She was also a Congressional Fellow working on health policy for Representative Xavier Becerra.



Sharon Ricks
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Sharon Ricks is the Acting Regional Health Administrator for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ricks has 30 years of federal experience and served as a public health advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Women's Health, where she had lead responsibility for coordinating and developing a national women's health strategy and implementing women's health activities at the regional, state and local levels. Ricks was a finalist for the 2015 Atlanta Federal Executive Board's Outstanding Interagency Partnership Award, a recipient of the 2013 Regional Director's Award for Innovation and the 2013 OASH Region IV Outstanding Leadership Award. She received her B.S. in Journalism from the University of Maryland University College in 1990 and her MA in Journalism from Regent University in 2004.



Paula E. Orr, M.D has served as CEO and President of Charleston Women's Wellness Center, since 2000. Dr. Orr has extensive experience in women's health, which has afforded her patients access to medical research and educational programs. As an early adopter of technology she continues to promote whole-person care as exemplified in her practice's designation as a NCQA Patient Centered Specialty Practice candidate.

Dr. Orr received her medical degree from Wayne State University in 1994 and completed her residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Cook County Hospital where she also served as Chief Resident.

Dr. Paula Orr
Charleston Women's Wellness Center

Panel II: A Winning Offense: Battling Diseases



Hon. Barbara Lee
Moderator

Congresswoman Barbara Lee of Oakland, CA serves as the health taskforce vice chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and as a leader in the Congressional Black Caucus. Her accomplishments are many, including authoring or co-authoring every major piece of legislation dealing with global HIV/AIDS issues since she was elected to Congress. This includes legislation that created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.



Amina Abbas
Asian & Pacific Islander
American Health Forum

Amina Abbas is the director of government relations and communications for the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF). Abbas advocates and develops strategies at the federal and state levels that promote APIAHF's policy agenda. She was previously a Law Students for Reproductive Justice/Georgetown Women's Law and Public Policy Fellow at APIAHF, where she focused on implementation of the ACA, HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence.

Abbas received her J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law and holds a B.S. in Biology / B.A. in Chemistry from East Carolina University.



Sis. Gloria Cox-Crowell
Allen Temple Health &
Social Services

Gloria Crowell is a Consultant, specializing in Organizational Development with organizations with budgets less than \$100,000. Her focus is with Faith Based and HIV/AIDS Organizations. Crowell has over 20 years of experience working in the field of HIV/AIDS, both domestically and globally. As an advocate for increasing HIV prevention strategies, Crowell has lobbied elected officials locally, nationally and globally to seek collaborative approaches.

Additionally, Crowell is a Commissioner with the Alameda County Public Health Department and currently serves as the Chair of the Allen Temple Baptist Church AIDS Ministry, where she provides oversight to both local HIV/AIDS Education and Prevention programs, daily hot meals for persons living with HIV and Global Treatment efforts in Zimbabwe providing FREE life-saving AIDS medications to over 1100 patients.



Aranthan Jones
Gilead Sciences

Aranthan "AJ" Jones II is Head of Worldwide Government Affairs for Gilead Sciences. In this capacity, he leads a global team to develop, advance and engage public policies and regulations to expand marketplace access and pharmaceutical innovation. Working collaboratively with industry stakeholders, healthcare professionals, association partners, and government leaders; Jones establishes and maintains relationships with government leaders to address policies connected to Gilead's business operations and access programs. He oversees all of Gilead's global, federal and state government affairs offices and operates out of company's Washington, DC and Forest City, CA offices.



Politics and Media and Communications Studies from Ursinus College.

Emily McCloskey
**National Alliance of State
& Territorial AIDS Directors**

Emily McCloskey is a Senior Manager on the Policy and Legislative Affairs team at the National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors. Since joining NASTAD in 2011, she has represented state HIV and viral hepatitis programs to Congress, federal government and partners, and national and community stakeholders, as well as managed NASTAD's Ryan White Program and Appropriations policy work. McCloskey co-chairs the Federal AIDS Policy Partnership's AIDS Budget and Appropriations Coalition, a coalition of national advocates and organizations dedicated to increasing federal resources for HIV, viral hepatitis and STD education, prevention, treatment and care. Previously, she served as the Public Policy Associate at The AIDS Institute and holds a B.A. in



Dr. Krupa Sivamurthy, Pfizer

Dr. Krupa Sivamurthy is a Pediatric Hematologist-Oncologist and a Medical Director in Hematology at Pfizer. She has an MD from MS Ramaiah Hospital, Bangalore, India, where she completed a General Pediatric residency. Dr. Sivamurthy completed a second General Pediatric residency at Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, followed by a Pediatric Hematology-Oncology fellowship from St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia. Prior to joining Pfizer, Dr. Sivamurthy was an Attending Physician in Pediatric Hematology at St Christopher's Hospital and the Marian Anderson Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center.



Mary Hulihan is a Health Scientist in the Epidemiology and Surveillance Branch of the Division of Blood Disorders, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over the past six years, she has served as a project officer for cooperative agreements in the areas of sickle cell disease, thalassemia, hereditary hemochromatosis, and Diamond Blackfan Anemia.

Prior to coming to CDC in 2008, Hulihan was a genetic epidemiologist at the Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville. She received her degree in Biology from Emory University and her MPH in Epidemiology from The George Washington University.

**Mary Hulihan,
Centers for Disease Control**

Panel III: The Color of Medicine: Perspectives on Health, Healthcare and the Diversity Pipeline



Congresswoman Robin Kelly is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust, the authority on African American and minority health policy on Capitol Hill. In this role, she serves as the CBC's principal healthcare advisor and is responsible for advancing the Caucus' health priorities, which include promoting health equity and reducing health disparities in all communities. Dr. Kelly recently authored "The 2015 Kelly Report on Health Disparities in America," an official Congressional analysis of the state of African American health in the U.S. that offers a blueprint for reversing negative health trends in communities of color. Kelly was elected to represent Illinois' 2nd Congressional District on April 9, 2013.

Hon. Dr. Robin L. Kelly
Moderator



Dr. Willette Burnham serves as MUSC's Chief Diversity Officer responsible for oversight and execution of diversity and inclusion strategic initiatives and multi-faceted diversity programs. Prior to assuming this role, Burnham served on the Associate Provosts' senior leadership team as the Executive Director of Student Programs and Student Diversity.

Burnham earned her bachelor's degree from Trinity College, Hartford, CT and her M.Ed. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of South Carolina and a post-doctoral certificate in Healthcare Executive Leadership in Diversity and Inclusion from Georgetown University.

Dr. Willette Burnham
Medical University of South Carolina



Deanna Darlington is the Director of Allied Development at Amgen. In this role, she engages patient advocates on policy issues and develops programs that support the patient's interest and raises their voice in areas such as oncology, cardiovascular, inflammation, and kidney disease. Prior to rejoining Amgen in 2013, she was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Onyx Pharmaceuticals. Prior to joining the biotech and biopharmaceutical industry, Darlington served as the first Reimbursement Specialist for the American Society of Clinical Oncology, where she staffed the Clinical Practice Committee and developed the State Affiliate Program under the Association's Public Policy arm.

Deanna Darlington, AMGEN



Gary A. Puckrein
National Minority Quality Forum

Gary A. Puckrein is President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Minority Quality Forum. The Forum is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assuring that high quality healthcare is available for and provided to all populations. Puckrein has launched a series of atlases to measure and analyze health status in small geographic areas, evaluate the impact of specific interventions and monitor changes in health outcomes. He has published two successful magazines, *American Visions* and *Minority Health Today*. He was awarded his doctorate from Brown University, graduating Phi Beta Kappa.



Dr. Cheryl Whitaker
NextLevel Health Partners LLC

Dr. Cheryl Whitaker is a 20-year veteran healthcare professional and chairman and CEO of NextLevel Health. Dr. Whitaker most recently served as the Chief Medical Officer of a publicly-traded health information technology company. She was appointed by former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn in 2011 to serve as the inaugural chair of the Illinois Health Information Exchange.

Dr. Whitaker received her Bachelor's degree in Biology from Emory University and a medical degree from the Washington University of Medicine. She has a Masters of Public Health from the Harvard School of Public Health in Health Policy and Management.



Dr. Patrick Canavan
Paladin Health Care Capital

Dr. Patrick Canavan of Paladin Health Care Capital which manages Howard University Hospital is a proven leader committed to improving the life of communities. He has made outstanding efforts to help individuals in care improve their overall health. Dr. Canavan is a champion for those who suffer from mental illness and is a tireless fighter against stigmas surrounding mental illness.

Panel IV: Food for Thought: Closing the Nutrition Gap



Congresswoman Michell Lujan Grisham of New Mexico has dedicated her life to serving her community, fighting for seniors and veterans, and building an economy that works for all New Mexicans.

A long-time advocate for the most vulnerable citizens, Congresswoman Lujan Grisham serves as 1st Vice Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and co-chair of their Health Taskforce.

A former small business owner, Bernalillo County Commissioner, Secretary of Health, and Secretary of Aging & Long-Term Services, Rep. Lujan Grisham now services on the three committees in the U.S. House of Representatives: Budget Committee, Agriculture Committee, and Oversight & Government Reform.

Hon. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Moderator



Dr. Janice Key is the Director of School and Community-based Programs at the Boeing Center for Children's Wellness at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is a Professor of Pediatrics and Director of Adolescent Medicine. Dr. Key has long been interested in wellness promotion and obesity prevention. For the past 20 years, she has worked to decrease childhood obesity through improved physician practice as well as through school-based programs. Dr. Key has received the MUSC Distinguished Service Faculty Award, the CCMS Wannamaker Community Service Award, the SC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy Vincent Outstanding Professional Award, the AAP Special Achievement Award, the Margaret Q. Jenkins Award and several teaching awards. She has been included in Best Doctors in America since 1998 and in the Guide to America's Top Pediatricians since 2008.

Dr. Janice Dixon Key
American Academy of Pediatrics



Denise Holland is CEO of Harvest Hope Food Bank. With 33 years nonprofit experience, he was formerly with the Central SC Chapter of the American Red in several different management positions. She has great passion for the many services of the South Carolina nonprofit community and for the people they serve. She has been recognized as a Tiffany award winner with American Red Cross, Non-Profit Executive Director of the Year from the SC Nonprofit Leadership Institute and Fund Raising Executive of the Year from the SC Midlands Association of Fund Raising Professionals. She is a 1982 graduate of the University of South Carolina.

Denise Holland, Harvest Hope Food Bank



Steven Lopez is the manager of the Health Policy Project at the National Council of La Raza. As manager, Lopez leads the development and advancement of public policies aimed at increasing health equity and improving the health status of Latino children and families. Childhood obesity and nutrition are two priority areas for Lopez, given that Hispanic children are more likely than their peers to be overweight or obese.

Lopez holds master's degrees in public policy and public health from the University of California at Berkeley, a bachelor's degree from Stanford University, and is a graduate of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) Internship and Fellowship Programs.

Steven Lopez, National Council of La Raza

Dana Mitchel Lowcountry Food Bank in Charleston

Dana Mitchel is the Nutrition Educator at the Lowcountry Food Bank in Charleston, South Carolina. After graduating from Virginia Tech with a BS in Dietetics and Exercise Science, she went on to the Medical University of South Carolina to complete her dietetic internship. In her current role, she engages local non-profits, Title I schools, faith-based organizations, and their clients by facilitating culinary nutrition courses, grocery store tours, and education-based outreach events. As the SNAP Education Implementing Agent for the coastal counties, the Lowcountry Food Bank has been recognized as a leader in nutrition education. Through SNAP Education, Mitchel collaborates with local health prevention and promotion programs, colleges, professional organizations, and state programs to implement nutrition education that empowers SNAP eligible participants to utilize their resources to make healthy choices for their families.



Dr. LaTasha Seliby is a physician at the Georgetown University Student Health Center, and recently completed a stint as the University's inaugural Department of Family Medicine's Health and Media Fellow. Dr. Seliby is a contributor to both ABC News and the Washington Post. A native of Biloxi, MS, she received her undergraduate training from the University of California-Davis, where she received a degree in Exercise Biology/Physiology and her post baccalaureate from the University of California-San Francisco in medicine. Dr. Seliby received her medical degree at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. She completed her residency in nearby Spartanburg, SC at the Spartanburg Regional Family Medical Center.

Dr. LaTasha Seliby, Georgetown University

PARTICIPATING CONGRESSIONAL TRI-CAUCUS HEALTH TASKFORCE CHAIRS

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC)



Hon. Barbara Lee – California's 13th Congressional District

Congresswoman Barbara Lee representing California's 13th Congressional District is a forceful and progressive voice in Congress, dedicated to social and economic justice, international peace, and civil and human rights.

As the health taskforce vice chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) and as a leader in the Congressional Black Caucus, her accomplishments are many, including authoring or co-authoring every major piece of legislation dealing with global HIV/AIDS issues since she was elected to Congress. This includes legislation that created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children.

Congresswoman Lee has secured millions of dollars for HIV/AIDS prevention, education, treatment and care services for communities across the country.

Congressional Black Caucus (CBC)



Hon. Dr. Robin L. Kelly – Illinois 2nd Congressional District

Congresswoman Robin Kelly is chair of the Congressional Black Caucus' Health Braintrust, the authority on African American and minority health policy on Capitol Hill. In this role, she serves as the CBC's principal healthcare advisor and is responsible for advancing the Caucus' health priorities, which include promoting health equity and reducing health disparities in all communities.

Kelly was elected to represent Illinois' 2nd Congressional District on April 9, 2013. Since then, she has worked to improve access to quality healthcare and promote healthier lifestyles in multicultural communities, including drafting legislation to provide dental care in underserved areas as well as legislation to address gun violence as a public health epidemic as a means of reducing gun-related deaths.

Dr. Kelly recently authored "*The 2015 Kelly Report on Health Disparities in America*," an official Congressional analysis of the state of African American health in the U.S. that offers a blueprint for reversing negative health trends in communities of color; and will soon be introducing the 2016 Health Equity and Accountability Act.

Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Hon. Michelle Lujan Grisham – New Mexico’s 1st Congressional District

Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham is serving her second term representing New Mexico’s 1st Congressional District.

Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, a 12th-generation New Mexican, has dedicated her life to serving her community, fighting for seniors and veterans, and building an economy that works for all New Mexicans. Congresswoman Lujan Grisham has built a reputation – both in New Mexico and in Congress – as a hardworking representative who always puts her constituents first.

During her first term, she stood up for veterans and their families; protected good-paying jobs at Kirtland Air Force Base; and held bureaucrats accountable for cleaning up the jet-fuel spill that threatens New Mexico drinking water. She also passed legislation to invest in appropriate training for police; protect the Sandia Mountains; and restore \$16 million to rebuild an elementary school that serves at-risk kids.

A long-time advocate for the most vulnerable citizens, Congresswoman Lujan Grisham is working to lift her state out of poverty by creating opportunities for New Mexico families. She is pushing an ambitious plan, called CARE Corps, that would provide support for family caregivers and help meet the growing demand for the care of aging and disabled Americans.

A former small business owner, Bernalillo County Commissioner, Secretary of Health, and Secretary of Aging & Long-Term Services, Rep. Lujan Grisham now services on the three committees in the U.S. House of Representatives: Budget Committee, Agriculture Committee, and Oversight & Government Reform. She was also selected by her colleagues to serve as 1st Vice Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Sponsoring Host



Honorable James Clyburn South Carolina's 6th Congressional District

President Barack Obama has said he is, "One of a handful of people who, when they speak, the entire Congress listens." As Assistant Democratic Leader in the 114th Congress, the number three Democrat in the House, James E. Clyburn is the leadership liaison to the Appropriations Committee, one of the Democratic Caucus' primary liaisons to the White House and Chair of the recently formed House Democrats' Democratic Outreach & Engagement Task Force.

As a national leader he has worked to respond to the needs of America's diverse communities. He championed rural communities supporting the development of regional water projects, community health centers, and broadband connections. He has supported higher education by leading the charge for increased Pell grants; investing millions in science and math programs and historic preservation at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. He has encouraged economic development by securing funding for Empowerment Zones; investing in green technology development such as nuclear, wind, hydrogen and biofuels; and directing 10 percent of Recovery Act funding to communities 20 percent under the poverty level for the past 30 years. Clyburn was instrumental in advancing into law measures to resolve historic discrimination issues, significantly reducing the statutory disparity in cocaine sentencing and compensating African and Native American farmers who suffered racial discrimination under the USDA loan program.

Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust Staff



Brandon Garrett serves as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02) and Executive Director of the CBC Health Braintrust. Brandon manages the Braintrust's stakeholder outreach as part of his responsibilities in managing the Braintrust's activities. He began his career on the Hill by working on economic development and tax policy for Congressman William Jefferson (D-New Orleans). Brandon then became the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Marcia Fudge from Ohio (D-Cleveland). As Rep. Fudge's top legislative advisor, he focused on economic development, budget, tax and labor issues. Brandon was then promoted to serve as this Policy Director of the powerful 43 member Congressional Black Caucus under the leadership of CBC Chairman Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-Kansas City). Immediately before joining Congresswoman Kelly, Brandon served as the policy and political advisor to Vice President Joe Biden on the successful Obama/Biden re-election campaign.

Brandon Garrett, Executive Director
Email: Brandon.Garrett@mail.house.gov



Brandon Webb serves as the Legislative Director to Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02) and Policy Director to the CBC Health Braintrust. In this role, Brandon has responsibility for a broad range of public health and health care issues, and serves as a chief advisor in developing the legislative, regulatory, and budget priorities of the CBC Health Braintrust. Prior to this he was the Senior Legislative Assistant to Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) where he managed the Congressman's Energy and Commerce Committee portfolio.

A native Virginian, Brandon holds a Master of Public Policy from the George Mason University School of Public Policy. He also has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hampton University where he was a Presidential Scholar. Brandon has been recognized with the Congressional Staff Leadership Award by the Congressional Black Caucus and was selected as a Whitney Young Emerging Leaders Fellow with the National Urban League.

Brandon Webb, Policy Director
Email: Brandon.Webb@mail.house.gov



Kayce Ataiyero is Communications Director for the CBC Health Braintrust and Chairwoman Robin Kelly (IL-02). In this role, Kayce is responsible for health policy communications strategy, including media relations, writing/messaging and event planning. Prior to working for Congresswoman Kelly, Kayce served as Press Secretary for former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn and as Deputy Communications Director for former Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias. Kayce is a former award-winning journalist who has worked at The Washington Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Raleigh News & Observer and The Chicago Tribune, where she covered a range of issues, including crime, education and politics, and also wrote a business column. Kayce is a Washington, D.C. native and a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park.

Kayce Ataiyero, Communications Director

Email: Kayce.Ataiyero@mail.house.gov



Matthew McMurray serves as Special Assistant to Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Digital Media Strategist/Coordinator to the CBC Health Braintrust. Prior to working for Congresswoman Kelly, Matt interned for the Committee on House Administration and Dale Curtis Communications. Before coming to the Hill, Matt worked as a Field Organizer for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in Michigan's First District. Matt graduated Magna cum Laude from Emory University and worked at the Yerkes National Primate Center in Atlanta for three years researching the effects of adverse maternal care in socially housed rhesus infants.

Matthew McMurray, Digital Media Strategist/Coordinator

Email: Matt.McMurray2@mail.house.gov

